

The Rush County Council met in their first session of the year, Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. with Norman Winkler, Chairman, John Pavey, Gerald Mohr, Warren Norris, Kevin Spilman, Jerry Kent, Bruce Levi, Leigh Morning, Attorney, and Deborah Adams, Auditor in attendance.

Deborah Adams, Auditor, asked for nominations for Council Chairman. Jerry Kent made the motion to retain the same officers as was held in 2009. John Pavey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairman, Norman Winkler called the meeting to order. Minutes of the December 10th, 2009 meeting were approved on a motion by Bruce Levi, seconded by Gerald Mohr. Motion carried.

### **RALEIGH FIRE DEPT**

Verlin Custer, Chief of Raleigh Fire Dept. informed the council of the departments desire to withdraw their extra budget funding request of \$3,000 as discussed during the December 10<sup>th</sup> council meeting.

Custer reviewed the 2009 annual ambulance report focusing on the department's quest for rapid stabilization and transport of the patient.

Custer did request \$50,000 annually for the 2011 and 2012 budget years. Custer asked for a two (2) year contract with the county and explained that the budget request is based upon current economic conditions.

The council had no concerns to address with Custer.

### **LCC**

Rob Hadley, LCC Coordinator for Rush County Schools, appeared before the council seeking their annual \$15,000 funding appropriation for 2010. Hadley shared the "Problem Statements for 2010". John Pavey made the motion to approve the budgeted appropriation. Gerald Mohr seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **EMA**

Mike Ooley, EMA Coordinator, appeared before the council seeking a \$12,000 additional appropriation for the Assistant EMA Deputy.

Ooley reviewed the 2010 projects. Ooley reported that the OCRA Grant will receive an additional \$20,000 that should give a total grant funding of \$110,000 to the county general fund. Ooley asked the council to pay the Assistant EMA Deputy position from the additional

\$20,000 received from the OCRA grant. Ooley stressed that he needed the additional person to keep projects going and needed assistance.

Councilman John Pavey informed Ooley that currently there are not enough monies to pay the current general fund budget for the next six (6) months.

Commissioner Tom Barnes questioned the council's usage of the \$110,000 and explained the breakout of the OCRA Grant whereas only approximately \$60,000 would actually be returned to the general fund. Barnes asked the council to allow the \$60,000 to go back to the various volunteer departments within the county. Barnes informed the council that he did not feel good as a commissioner of not assisting those departments already operating on a bare bones budget.

Councilman Gerald Mohr and Jerry Kent questioned Barnes about the positions grant writing ability and the continuing of budgeting for 2011. Barnes indicated that if the position and funding does not work out at year end he and Ooley would not return.

Councilman Norman Winkler shared his concerns that the grant writer could include his fees as part of the total grant package. Councilman Bruce Levi shared that his feelings had not changed from the beginning. Jerry Kent shared that he had no problem with Ooley having the personnel but questioned if funding would be available to even have this department a year from now. Kent explained that the council has already cut the easy stuff where personnel occupy 80% to 85% of the budget. Kent finished that this was not a long term solution. Kevin Spilman asked Barnes to explain how the OCRA grant monies are for the volunteer departments

Tom Barnes explained that the grant monies are for volunteer hours given during the tornado and flooding disaster of the Moscow area. Money cannot go directly to the departments. The volunteer departments are in need of equipment and training and that the county has a moral obligation to the volunteer departments.

After further discussion Gerald Mohr expressed that the funding of the position was worth the risk with the addition of getting grants for the county for the 2011 year and questioned Barnes as to when EMA anticipated the funding of the position. Barnes indicated that once the monies are in house funding of the position would begin.

Gerald Mohr made the motion to approve the additional appropriation for the funding of the assistant EMA coordinator contingent upon receipt of the monies and to also provide funding for the equipment to the volunteer departments out of the general fund. Bruce Levi seconded the motion.

Voting AYE were councilmen John Pavey, Gerald Mohr, Bruce Levi and Jerry Kent. Voting NAY were councilmen Norman Winkler, Warren Norris and Kevin Spilman. Motion carried.

Kevin Spilman expressed that he had no problem with money going to the volunteer departments but the county had earlier decided that there should be no hiring of personnel. Norman Winkler expressed that he had issues with the \$12,000 and felt that it should be part of the individual grant fees.

### **CORONER**

Ann Moster, Coroner, reported that the final lease payment of the 2007 coroner van is \$11,377.32 the odometer reading is 3,010 miles and the commissioners will sign off on the title release.

### **WAGE CONSTRUCTION BOARD**

Commissioner Ken Masters informed the council of their need to make an appointment to the Common Wage Construction Board for work on the Soldiers and Sailors Home. Jerry Kent made the motion to appoint Kevin Spilman. John Pavey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **HEALTH DEPT.**

Commissioner and Health Board Member Tom Barnes reported that the health department is currently reviewing all areas and services. Barnes reported that some areas are not mandated such as home health care. Barnes continued that the state did an injustice to the county and to the health department. Barnes reported that a committee has been created to make reviews, changes, with cuts to be made first prior to approaching the council for a loan.

Discussion was held to allowing the fund to operate in the red but would have to be in the black by the end of the 2010 budget/calendar year. It was noted that the Solid Waste department does not intend to approach the council for a loan for the 2010 year. Barnes did thank Auditor Deborah Adams and Councilmen Bruce Levi, Kevin Spilman and Jerry Kent for attending the recent health board meeting.

### **CHERRY STREET PROJECT**

Councilman John Pavey explained the Rushville Redevelopment Commission needs backing by either an additional rate or EDIT monies. Discussion was held as to committing of an additional rate or EDIT monies, the creation of additional jobs, annexation of the area. The project if funded thru federal monies will be approximately \$3million.

### **SHERIFF**

Sheriff Jeff Sherwood reported an inmate count of 53 currently being housed in the jail. Sherwood reported that the food bill for November was \$8,000 and if this rate continues there will be a budget shortage by September.

Sherwood reported that he was able to stay within the approved 2009 budget and was even able to make cuts and return money back to the general fund.

Sherwood reported currently McCreedy and Keene is working on pension funding and will soon have the 2011 funding rate.

Sherwood reviewed the Morgan Stanley Rush County Police Retirement Plan with the council members

Sherwood finished by discussing using the E-911 Wireless fund #200 for the financing of the Kendall billing analysis. An additional appropriation will be necessary since a budget was not created and approved in September.

### **PROSECUTOR**

The council approved a \$26,572.00 additional appropriation from the Prosecutor Infraction Deferral fund #160 on a motion by Gerald Mohr, seconded by John Pavey. Motion carried. The additional appropriation will fund the investigator that the council removed from the general fund.

### **RUSH MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AMBULANCE**

Discussion was held regarding the renewal and approval of the 2010 Rush Memorial Hospital Ambulance contract. Deborah Adams, Auditor, reported that the commissioners had approved and signed the contract during their December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 meeting. Brad Smith, Rush Memorial CEO, made a few amendments with County Attorney Leigh Morning following the December 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. The commissioners took the amended contract under advisement during their January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting and approved and signed the contract during their January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. Adams did review the amendments with the council members.

Councilman Warren Norris shared his concerns as to the contract being open ended and also discussed the situation between Raleigh Fire Dept and Rush Memorial Hospital. After further discussion Gerald Mohr made the motion to approve and sign the ambulance contract. Bruce Levi seconded the motion. Voting AYE were councilmen Norman Winkler, Gerald Mohr, Bruce Levi, Jerry Kent, John Pavey and Kevin Spilman. Voting NAY was Councilman Warren Norris. Motion carried.

### **AUDITOR**

Deborah Adams, Auditor, asked the council to approve the amended 2009 Salary ordinance #2008-6. John Pavey made the motion to approve the amended salary ordinance. Kevin Spilman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adams reviewed the 2009 Annual Financial Report that was previously forwarded and advertised in the Rushville Republican.

Adams informed the council of the 2009 year end emergency transfers.

- \$241.85 from 1-2-1-5 (Part-time) into 1-2-2-1 (paper & forms)
- \$252.00 from 1-30-2-2 (operating supplies) into 1-30-3-4 (computer maintenance)

Adams reported that \$40,311.55 was quietus into the Key Benefits health insurance fund #807. The monies are part of the ongoing reimbursement of claims.

Adams reported that the PERF Employer contribution rate for 2011 will increase to 7.00%. The current 2010 Employer contribution rate is 6.50%

**LOIT**

Leigh Morning informed the council that the council can adopt LOIT after March 31 and before July 30<sup>th</sup>.

Jerry Kent asked Morning to research if a township is allowed an individual public safety rate to fund the ambulance. The township rate would then remove the burden from the general fund. Kent asked Adams to calculate what a .01(1 cent) rate for the individual townships would generate.

**WHEEL TAX**

The council asked Jerry Sitton, Hwy Superintendent, to research the increasing of the county wheel tax.

Motion to adjourn was initiated by Jerry Kent. Gerald Mohr seconded the motion, motion carried.

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Norman Winkler, Chairman

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John Pavey

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Gerald Mohr

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Warren Norris

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Bruce Levi

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Kevin Spilman

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Jerry Kent

ATTEST:

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Deborah C. Adams, Auditor